



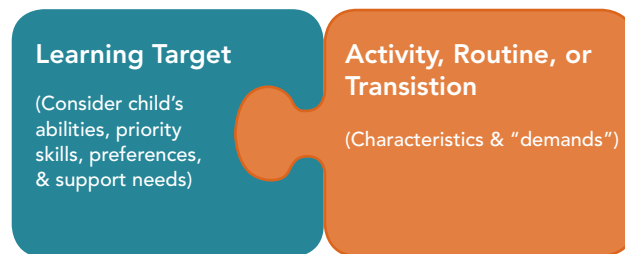
tips for teachers: embedded learning opportunities

When to Teach: Everyday Activities, Routines, and Transitions

After you have decided what to teach (learning objectives), the second consideration is when to teach. To decide when to teach:

- Look at your daily schedule. What are the typical activities, routines, and transitions that occur each day?
- What learning opportunities are there across typical activities, routines, and transitions for all children?
- What might you target for a specific child during these activities?
- What opportunities are natural and logical times for teaching the learning objectives?

As you think about your scheduled activities, routines, and transitions, consider the most natural and logical times for teaching. We want a “fit” between the learning objective and the characteristics of the activity, routine, or transition.



For example, if a child has a learning objective to request items from an adult, snack time presents a natural and logical opportunity for a child to ask an adult for juice, but snack time might not be a natural or logical time to embed a learning objective that involves the child pointing to objects in a book.

Using an Activity Matrix

An activity matrix is a tool that helps break down activities, routines, and transitions to identify and plan for times to embed a child's learning objectives. You can use your activity matrix as a working document that can change as the needs of the children and the needs of the staff change. As you design your activity matrix, you might consider the following points:

- Does the learning objective fit with the activity, routines, or transition? Is it a natural and logical time to teach?
- What time of the day are you most likely to see the behavior occur?
- Are there enough staff available during the activity, routine, or transition to provide instruction?
- How many opportunities throughout the day will the child need to practice?

See the materials that accompany this learning suite for an activity matrix to use in your classroom.